AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A pharmaceutical preparation, comprising a metal carbonyl compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a guanylate cyclase stimulant or stabilizer and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. (original) A pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 1, wherein the metal carbonyl makes available CO suitable for physiological effect, for delivery of carbon monoxide to a physiological target.

3. (original) A pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 2, wherein said metal carbonyl compound makes CO available by at least one of the following means:

1) CO derived by dissociation of the metal carbonyl is present in the composition in dissolved form;

2) on contact with a solvent or ligand the metal carbonyl releases CO;

3) on contact with a tissue, organ or cell the metal carbonyl releases CO;

4) on irradiation the metal carbonyl releases CO.

4. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ wherein said metal carbonyl compound and said guanylate cyclase stimulant/stabilizer are combined in a single composition.

5. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ wherein said metal carbonyl compound and said guanylate cyclase stabilizer/stimulant are in separate compositions for administration simultaneously or sequentially.

6. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the metal carbonyl compound has the formula $M(CO)_xA_y$ where x is at least one, y is at least one, M is a metal, the or each A is an atom or group bonded to M by an ionic, covalent or coordination bond but is not CO, and in the case where y>1 each A may be the same or different, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such a compound.

7. (original) A pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 6, wherein M is a transition metal.

8. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~, wherein A is selected from neutral or anionic ligands, such as halide, or derived from Lewis bases and having N, P, O, S or C as the coordinating atom(s).

9. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation according to any one of claims 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein the metal carbonyl compound has the formula

$M(CO)_x A_yB_z$ where

M is Fe, Co or Ru,

x is at least one,

y is at least one,

z is zero or at least one,

each A is a ligand other than CO and is monodentate or polydentate with respect to M and is selected from the amino acids

alanine

arginine

asparagine

aspartic acid

cysteine

glutamic acid

glutamine

glycine

histidine

isoleucine

leucine

lysine

methionine

phenylalanine

proline

serine

threonine

tryptophan

tyrosine

valine

$[O(CH_2COO)_2]^{2-}$ and

$[NH(CH_2COO)_2]^{2-}$, and

B is optional and is a ligand other than CO.

10. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the guanylate cyclase stimulant/stabilizer is YC-1.

11. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, adapted for delivery by an oral, intravenous, subcutaneous, nasal, inhalatory, intramuscular, intraperitoneal or suppository route.

12. (currently amended) A method of introducing a therapeutic agent to a mammal comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutical preparation according to any one of ~~the preceding claims~~claim 1.

13. (original) A method of introducing a therapeutic agent to a mammal comprising:

a) administering a metal carbonyl; and

b) administering a guanylate cyclase stimulant or stabiliser.

14. (original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the metal carbonyl makes CO available for physiological effect, for delivery of CO to a physiological target.

15. (original) A method according to claim 14, wherein said metal carbonyl compound makes CO available by at least one of the following means:

1) CO derived by dissociation of the metal carbonyl is present in the composition in dissolved form;

2) on contact with a solvent or ligand the metal carbonyl releases CO;

3) on contact with a tissue, organ or cell the metal carbonyl releases CO;

4) on irradiation the metal carbonyl releases CO.

Claims 16-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 15 to 22~~claim 15, wherein the metal carbonyl compound and/or the guanylate cyclase stabilizer/stimulant is administered by an oral, intravenous, subcutaneous, nasal, inhalatory, intramuscular, intraperitoneal or suppository route.

24. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 23~~ claim 12, wherein the metal carbonyl and guanylate cyclase stimulant/stabilizer are administered to an extracorporeal body organ.

25. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 24~~ claim 12, where the administration is for the stimulation of vasodilation, or for treatment of any of hypertension, such as acute, pulmonary and chronic hypertension, radiation damage, endotoxic shock, inflammation, inflammatory-related diseases such as asthma and rheumatoid arthritis, hyperoxia-induced injury, apoptosis, cancer, transplant rejection, arteriosclerosis, post-ischemic organ damage, myocardial infarction, angina, haemorrhagic shock, sepsis, penile erectile dysfunction, adult respiratory distress syndrome and inhibition of platelet aggregation.

26. (currently amended) A kit for medical treatment comprising a) a metal carbonyl compound; and b) a guanylate cyclase stimulant/stabilizer.

27. A kit according to claim 26, wherein the metal carbonyl is capable of making available CO suitable for physiological effect.

Claims 28-35. (cancelled)